

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SEMIANNUAL BBC-FBIS* COVERAGE COORDINATION MEETING
HELD IN CYPRUS ON THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 1960.

PRESENT:

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Mr. John T. Campbell

Head of the BBC Monitoring Service
Chief, FBIS, Mediterranean Bureau
Deputy Chief, FBIS, Mediterranean Bureau
Chief Monitor, FBIS, Mediterranean Bureau

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Fourteenth Semiannual Coverage Coordination meeting held at Caversham on Thursday, 12 November 1959, were reviewed and the progress made in the implementation of various points noted.

2. ARABIC COVERAGE

a) Tunis

FBIS expressed its appreciation for BBC's assumption and excellent handling of Tunis coverage during the past few months.

b) Cairo

BBC stated its intention to propose in early July that it resume coverage of Cairo in Arabic casts from 1500 GMT until close of transmission. Although FBIS stated that transfer would complicate its efforts to avoid duplication of filing, it would agree to such transfer in order to increase the over-all Arabic coverage of both services if BBC would file rapidly to Cyprus comprehensive summaries with indicators showing the items to be processed.

c) Nairobi Coverage

In outlining its intentions concerning its Nairobi monitoring station, BBC stated that experimental coverage would probably be undertaken by the end of October 1960. At that time it would probably be able to cover some Sana and Omdurman casts in addition to other commitments.

d) Backstopping

FBIS stated that it proposed discontinuance of the backstopping of Moscow in Arabic and certain periods of Voice of Arabs because of BBC's good reception of these programs. FBIS, however, stated its willingness to resume backstopping for short periods during ionospheric disturbance when notified by BBC.

*Throughout these minutes "FBIS" refers to the Mediterranean Bureau of FBIS.

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e) Satellites in Arabic

FBIS reported that it was monitoring one Sofia in Arabic cast daily and that it was covering at least once each week a program from each of the other Satellites except Berlin and Budapest.

f) Staffing

BBC stated that it expected its Arabic Section to be fully staffed and trained by approximately 1 July. FBIS reported that its Arabic Section was fully staffed with 15 monitors and that the only additional help which could be expected would be part-time duty from a Hebrew/Arabic monitor when hired.

3. SOVIET REGIONAL COVERAGE

BBC and FBIS agreed that both coordination on and coverage of Soviet Regionals had proved highly satisfactory since the last meeting and that no changes in present principles or procedures were necessary. In this connection FBIS stated that it was unable to tell what the coverage of TASS Cyrillic would cost in other coverage. BBC explained its position regarding TASS Cyrillic and requested that FBIS avoid references to this transmission in other broadcast material. FBIS agreed to do so.

4. PERSIAN COVERAGE

BBC said it hoped to bring on duty a trained Persian monitor in July, and that when its present monitor was fully trained, about the end of July, it would propose to assume full coverage of Moscow and Berlin in Persian. FBIS stated that it expected to have two additional monitors--one knowing Pushtu--on duty within the next three or four months. BBC requested that FBIS cover Teheran and the National Voice of Iran particularly and, when able, Peking, Baghdad, Kabul, Baku, Stalinabad, Tashkent, Bucharest, and Cairo, preferably in the order listed. FBIS expressed approximately the same interests.

disagree

5. YUGOSLAV COVERAGE

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BBC stated that it was unable to use material processed by Vienna from newspapers and therefore it requested that FBIS supply full radio versions of speeches and other significant material. To make this possible BBC expressed its willingness to share the processing burden created by congresses, Tito speeches, etc., providing the workload could be apportioned through pre-coordination. FBIS expressed its appreciation to BBC for the help volunteered during the recent congress in Yugoslavia.

6. KURDISH COVERAGE

FBIS stated that it now had one Kurdish monitor and that a second was scheduled to arrive in August. BBC and FBIS agreed that initial efforts should go toward coverage of Baghdad and an examination of broadcasts from Yerevan, Teheran, and Cairo to determine coverage priorities.

7. COVERAGE OF ADDIS ABABA

BBC expressed great interest in the FBIS sampling of Addis Ababa in English and in receiving as much material on Somali affairs as possible. Although reception had been poor, FBIS volunteered to prolong the sampling period for another 30 days. As an aid to BBC, FBIS offered to mail recordings of Addis Ababa in Somali to Caversham for BBC transcription.

8. COVERAGE OF JOHANNESBURG

BBC stated that because of staffing reasons it would no longer be able to provide assistance in the coverage of Johannesburg in English but would be able to continue its four-times-weekly coverage of programs in Afrikaans. FBIS agreed to cover certain casts broadcast thrice weekly in English thereby jointly providing some monitoring of Johannesburg each day.

9. BBC REQUIREMENTS

FBIS requested that BBC review its editorial requirements before each coordination meeting and on 1 March and 1 September in order to keep FBIS currently informed of BBC needs. It was agreed that FBIS would compile a list of requirements as now understood, which would be forwarded to Caversham for modification or confirmation.

10. SLUGGING OF COPY

BBC was of the opinion that many items slugged "summary" were almost full text and that both services should make every effort under present instructions to slug items accurately, to set off textual portions in summaries with quotation marks, and have monitors convert summaries into texts or excerpts whenever it was found that in processing there were only minor departures from full text.

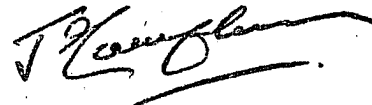
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11. APPRECIATION

- a. Both BBC and FBIS expressed appreciation for each other's continuous fine cooperation during the past six months and for the many instances of close coordination that permitted excellent over-all results.
- b. BBC congratulated FBIS for its excellent coverage and reporting of the recent coup d'etat in Turkey. FBIS expressed its appreciation to BBC for voluntarily assuming coverage of "Our Radio" during the critical period, thereby permitting FBIS to devote its efforts to a closer watch of Turkish transmitters.


12. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in Caversham the latter part of November.



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